



# Animal & Comparative Biomedical Sciences

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## Renovated Food Product and Safety Laboratory gives students next-generation training following \$10.9M makeover

After three years of renovations, the Food Product and Safety Laboratory is back. And according to Duane Wulf, an associate professor in the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences (ACBS) and director of the Arid Lands Animal Production Initiative, the \$10.9M makeover enables the facility to better serve both students and producers.

"What we have now is a state-of-the-art teaching and research facility," he said. "It has a higher capacity than any other university in the country and gives more opportunities for U of A students, which is our first and foremost mission."

The USDA-inspected meat processing facility serves as a center for animal sciences programs in ACBS and the Arizona Experiment Station. The state-funded facility upgrades – the first since the lab opened in 1988 – improve food and worker safety and allow greater capacity to serve regional clients from the animal agriculture industry.

Improvements include expanded areas for the popular Wildcat Country Market, as well as chill, frozen and dry storage, classrooms and lab space, and value-added meat production. The renovations also added a new main entrance reception area, a demonstration and teaching kitchen, an ingredients storage and prep room, and a lecture hall. The upgraded facility now has new refrigeration equipment and state-of-the art machines for grinding, slicing, curing and packaging.

"This facility is a great example of the University of Arizona meeting its land grant mission," said ACBS director Scotty Merrell. "We were only able to renovate and expand because of stakeholders and the state realizing the importance



Dr. Scotty Merrell addresses attendees, including stakeholders, faculty, staff, and students, at the Grand Re-Opening of the Food Product and Safety Lab, held November 7, 2025.



The updated exterior of the University of Arizona Food Product and Safety Lab.

(FPSL continued on 3)

# From the Director



I'm not sure where the Summer and Fall have gone! As I sit to write this, we are somehow approaching the end of November. In less than a month, the campus will feel like a very different place as students wrap up the semester and head home for the holiday break. All of our students have a story about what led them to the U of A and their particular areas of study. For those that are

completing the first semester in their college journey, there have undoubtedly been many new things to learn, people to meet, and things to explore. Even though it's been a while ago at this point, I can't wrap up a year without thinking about my own college experience.

As a first-generation college student, I had no clue what to expect during that first year and no family members with experience to share with me. I was so fortunate that many of my high school teachers went out of their way to answer my questions and help me be as prepared as possible for college. Beyond all of the information, my first set of luggage was actually given to me by my school librarian as a graduation gift; I'm still grateful! Memories of hitting the (dirt) road that I had to travel to get to the paved 'city' roads with my meager belongings still makes me nostalgic. Though the details are different, I suspect many of us have our own unique stories about the journey that led us to where we are today.

As the semester draws to a close, I hope that all of you will take time to reflect on what brought you to your current position. Also, as you are thinking about the stress of increased activity, more traffic, longer waits, etc., I hope that you will also stop to remember that we do what we do to impact students, families, and the world. The ability to deliver on our Land Grant mission of Instruction, Research and Extension is an honor, especially now.

Thank you all for all that you do within and outside of the University.

- Scotty

## D. Scott Merrell

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LEARN MORE AT [ACBS.ARIZONA.EDU](http://ACBS.ARIZONA.EDU)

## Faculty Promotions

On behalf of everyone in the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, we would like to extend congratulations to the faculty who received promotions and/or tenure or continuing status, effective July 1, 2025, or with the beginning of the next academic year. This is a professional milestone and represents many years of hard work and dedication. Join us in congratulating them on this signal achievement.

### Promotion to Professor of Practice

- Scott Wilbur

### Promotion to Associate Professor of Practice

- Robert Hartman



Scott Wilbur



Robert Hartman

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Page 1 - Dr. Scotty Merrell - Debbie Reed; FPLS - CALES Communications

Page 3 - FPLS - CALES Communications; Wildcat Country Market - Debbie Reed

Page 4 - Andy Groseta - Groseta Family

Page 5 - 2025 ACBS Seniors - Jasmine Acosta

Page 6 - all photos - Megan Sorenson

Page 7 - Awards - CALES Communications; McFarlane - Debbie Reed

Page 8 - Fly - Adobe stock; All other photos - Betsy Greene

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# John Wesley Lockhart Joins University of Arizona as Livestock Judging Team Coach

The University of Arizona's School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences welcomes John Wesley Lockhart as its new Assistant Professor of Practice and Livestock Judging Team Coach, marking an exciting step toward revitalizing the university's livestock judging program.

Lockhart brings with him a deep-rooted passion for agriculture and more than a decade of proven leadership in youth livestock education. Raised in West Virginia, he grew up showing and breeding club pigs at local and state shows, an early foundation that helped shape his career in agricultural sciences and education.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from West Virginia University, followed by a Master of Arts in Leadership from Wheeling Jesuit University. Lockhart went on to spend twelve years as an Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor, serving from 2013 to 2025. His commitment to student development and excellence in agricultural education earned him national

recognition, including being named a 2021 finalist for the Association of Career and Technical Education's National Teacher of the Year.

During his teaching career, Lockhart coached six state champion 4-H and FFA Livestock and Dairy Cattle Evaluation Teams, further demonstrating his expertise in mentoring students in competitive livestock evaluation.



Now stepping into his new role at the University of Arizona, Lockhart is excited to restart the Livestock Judging Program and is eager to help students build both technical livestock evaluation skills and professional leadership abilities.

His arrival is expected to energize the program and strengthen the university's commitment to hands-on, competitive learning opportunities in animal science.

**(FPSL continued from 1)**

of the facility and the activities there. We provide instruction to students that runs the gamut from humane animal handling to safe processing practices, to the effects of nutrition on meat quality, to marketing the products for sale in our market."

Wulf, who worked closely with U of A Planning, Design and Construction throughout the project, said he had input on everything down to the smallest details, including door swing direction and light fixtures to ensure maximum efficiency for teaching, research and processing.

"It was exciting and challenging, and a great opportunity for us to modernize the entire facility," he said.

Arizona Experiment Station interim director Brett Blum said the renovations elevate the Food Product and Safety Lab to one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the country and make it a nexus for multiple programs across the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences and the AES.

"This enables the U of A not only to be at the forefront of technology and innovation in animal sciences, but also to demonstrate and lead with modern care and best handling practices," he said.

According to Blum, the upgraded lab will also help connect the dots in livestock programming across the state, including the V Bar V Ranch, the Experiment Station ranch in Yavapai County.

"We're not looking at the facility in isolation, but instead at how we leverage it to showcase and bolster statewide U of A livestock

programming," he explained. "This approach provides opportunities for teaching and research from artificial insemination and genetic work to herd, range and natural resource management."

"Technology has changed so much since 1988," Merrell said. "Being able to expand and renovate the Food Product and Safety Lab has allowed us to bring it into the current century, so we're very excited."

- Joel Badzinski, CALES

Originally published Sept. 30, 2025

<https://cales.arizona.edu/news/renovated-food-product-and-safety-laboratory-gives-students-next-generation-training-following>

## Wildcat Country Market

The Wildcat Country Market, a student run meat store, offers steaks, roasts, chops, and other cuts for sale to the local community. Every purchase from the market supports U of A students in some way. Students not only breed, raise, process, and package the meat products, they also run the store and are responsible for sales.

Visit the store at 4181 N. Campbell Avenue in Tucson, Arizona inside the Food Product and Safety Lab. Current shopping hours are Fridays from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

<https://wildcatcountrymarket.arizona.edu/index.html>



Photos left to right:

- New demonstration and teaching kitchen provides opportunities for taste and sensory testing of products.
- Updated and expanded locker area.
- Students running the Wildcat Country Market.

# Join Us for the 2025 Global Symposium on Racing

Now in its 51st year, the Race Track Industry Program (RTIP) remains at the forefront of horse racing education, shaping the future of the sport through academic excellence and industry engagement. Since 1974, the RTIP has prepared students for impactful careers in horse racing management, regulation, equine welfare, and technology through an innovative combination of classroom instruction and hands-on experience.

One of the hallmarks of the program is our annual Global Symposium on Racing, which brings together racing industry leaders from around the world. This year's event is scheduled for December 8-10, 2025, at Loews Ventana Canyon. "The Global Symposium on Racing is a great example of how academic programs like the RTIP can serve as bridges between the University and the industries we support," said Dr. Scotty Merrell, Director, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences. "This year, there is an open invitation for faculty across disciplines to bring their expertise to real-world challenges—and to help shape the future of equine and sports-related industries."

This year, the RTIP invites University of Arizona faculty to submit abstracts to lead a presentation in your area of expertise. As always, all faculty receive complimentary registration (a \$550 savings) to attend panel sessions and explore collaborative opportunities and engage with industry partners in a dynamic, real-world setting. We aim for the Symposium to serve as a living laboratory for faculty, students, and industry professionals, and a unique space for cross-disciplinary dialogue. "We've always believed in learning by doing, and the Symposium brings that philosophy to life," said RTIP Chair Robert Hartman. "It's a unique opportunity for our faculty to engage with a global audience and

explore collaborations that extend far beyond the race track."

New pre-conference workshops have been added to encourage faculty and other industry thought leaders to present or participate on topics that intersect management, technology, communication, and equine science. A sample of the planned workshops, highlighting the diverse range of topics presented by experts from both within and beyond the industry, includes:

- Racing's New Reality: A Management Workshop on Human/AI Collaboration — Led by Kathleen Kennedy
- Management Decision Making to Support the Track Superintendent — Led by Dr. Mick Peterson
- Calm, Clear, Credible: Responding When Racing's Under Fire (Media Training Workshop) — Led by Vicky Leonard
- Systems Biomechanics of the Horse: Advancing Equine Athletic Research — Led by Dr. Laura Miller

We are excited to welcome our university colleagues to join us in supporting one of the University's most distinctive and industry-connected programs. To register, visit [www.racingsymposium.com](http://www.racingsymposium.com) and select the 'University of Arizona Student and Faculty' registration option to receive complementary registration. For questions or more information, please contact Emiliano Alvarado at [eia@arizona.edu](mailto:eia@arizona.edu).



## GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON RACING

## Remembering Peter Andrew "Andy" Groseta: A Champion of Arizona's Agricultural Legacy



Peter Andrew "Andy" Groseta, a third-generation cattleman and a dedicated advocate for Arizona's agricultural and educational institutions, passed away on July 22, 2025. A proud alumnus of CALES, Andy's contributions to both the university and the agricultural community were immeasurable.

After earning his B.S. in Agricultural Education and Animal Science in 1972, followed by a Master's in Agricultural Education in 1978, Andy began his career as an agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor. His connection to the university remained strong throughout his life. He served as a passionate advocate for agricultural education, Cooperative Extension and research, and held leadership roles such as chairman of the Yavapai County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board and a recognized member of the University of Arizona's National Leadership Council. He also served as one of the University of Arizona's delegates to the Association of Public

and Land Grant Universities' Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching.

Andy's unwavering advocacy for the U of A earned him numerous prestigious honors, including the Cooperative Extension Centennial Award, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni of the Year Award and an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree. His service on various university boards, including the Water Resources Research Center Advisory Committee, cemented his legacy as an advocate for Arizona's future and sustainability.

Beyond his support for the university, Andy was a strong voice for Arizona's agricultural industry. He served as President of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association and Past President of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. His leadership in agricultural affairs earned him induction into the Arizona 4-H Hall of Fame and the Arizona Farming and Ranching Hall of Fame.

- CALES Communications

Originally published Aug. 7, 2025

<https://cales.arizona.edu/news/remembering-peter-andrew-andy-groseta-champion-arizonas-agricultural-legacy>

# ACBS Celebrates the Class of 2025!

On May 15, 2025, more than one hundred attendees filled the Café Commons of ENRS to celebrate the remarkable Class of 2025. Families, faculty, staff, friends, and students came together for an evening marked by connection, laughter, and heartfelt appreciation for the graduates' achievements. The celebration featured a full nacho bar, desserts, and a festive atmosphere that honored both shared memories and exciting futures.

Guests enjoyed a variety of activities, including three lively raffles with prizes ranging from a cast iron pot to LEGO sets and chess boards. Lawn games brought fun for all ages, while a special memory wall displayed baby photos of the graduates. An "Oh, The Places You Will Go" map highlighted the diverse paths students will take after commencement, and families contributed Advice Messages to inspire future students and supporters.

During the evening's presentation, every graduate was recognized and received an alumni sticker as a token of appreciation. The ceremony also celebrated this year's Outstanding Seniors, many of whom persevered through pandemic-related interruptions and still finished strong.

## Katlind Nearing: Outstanding Senior in Veterinary Science

Katlind reflected on her transformative experience in CALES, from conducting research on gene nomenclature in Dr. Fiona McCarthy's lab to studying biochemical pathways in Dr. Benjamin Renquist's lab. She also served as the inaugural class president for the Defense Civilian Training Corps, an experience that deepened her leadership skills and appreciation for collaboration. "Leadership is not about having all the answers. It's about listening, uplifting others, and staying resilient through uncertainty," she shared. After graduation, she will move to New York to begin a PhD in biomedical sciences at the University at Buffalo.



## Marco Suazo: Outstanding Senior in Microbiology & Exceptional Academic Performance and Perseverance Award Recipient



Marco expressed gratitude for the mentors who supported him throughout his academic journey, including Dr. Wilbur, whose encouragement left a lasting impact. He also thanked advisor Micah Parrish for guiding him through key opportunities. Marco challenged himself through an internship with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona while managing an intensive chemistry course and later tutoring

in the ACBS preceptorship. After graduation, he will prepare for the Dental Admission Test and plans to apply to dental schools in the upcoming cycle.

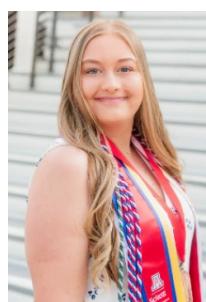
## Jessica Torres: Outstanding Senior in Animal Sciences

Jessica will continue her academic journey at the University of Arizona, pursuing a Master of Public Health.

ACBS proudly celebrates all members of the Class of 2025 and congratulates them on their achievements. Their resilience, dedication, and spirit have left a lasting mark on the ACBS community.

- Jasmine Acosta, ACBS Academic Advisor

## Amanda Adams Named Outstanding Senior in Molecular & Cellular Biology



The College of Science named Amanda Adams, an undergraduate researcher in the Craig Lab, as the spring semester 2025 Outstanding Senior in Molecular & Cellular Biology. Each term, the College recognizes exceptional graduating students from its departments, and Amanda was selected for her academic excellence, dedication to research, and commitment to advancing scientific knowledge.

Amanda's passion for science began in high school biotech courses, where early exposure to laboratory techniques and research set her on a path toward molecular and cellular biology. "I first fell in love with all things science in my biotech classes in high school," she said. "I was fortunate enough to learn lab techniques and dive deep into the field of research. This led me to molecular and cellular biology, a major where I could use this interest for a wide variety of career options and gain research experience."

Following graduation, Amanda will continue her education at the University of Arizona, pursuing a master's degree in Genetic Counseling. She hopes to specialize in fertility and prenatal counseling to support women and families navigating infertility.

A longtime member of the Craig Laboratory, Amanda has conducted research in reproductive toxicology since her sophomore year. She cites her project examining how wood-fire smoke exposure affects ovarian reserve as a highlight of her undergraduate career. Using mice as model organisms, her work explored how firefighting-related smoke exposure may influence female fertility—an area she notes is significantly under-researched. "It was incredible to be able to advance what is known specifically about female firefighting occupational hazards," she said.

ACBS congratulates Amanda on receiving the Outstanding Senior Award and her academic achievements.

- Analeise Mayor, College of Science

Adapted from original article published May 9, 2025

<https://science.arizona.edu/news/outstanding-senior-awards-amanda-adams>

# Rising Leaders in Meat Science: ACBS Students Earn Prestigious Awards and Board Positions in 2025

## Students Shine at 2025 Reciprocal Meat Conference

From June 22–25, 2025, a contingent of ACBS students and faculty traveled to Columbus, Ohio, to participate in the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC). Representing the University of Arizona were four undergraduate students—Alex Badorek, Sco Scofield, Hailey Harmon, and Madison Basansky—three graduate students—Megan Sorenson, Lucila Gracia, and Emmanuel Fatola—and faculty member Dr. Duane Wulf.

RMC brings together industry leaders and academic researchers to share emerging findings, explore career pathways, and highlight innovations across the meat science field. For students, the conference serves as a valuable opportunity to network with professionals and peers while deepening their understanding of the industry.

The undergraduate team competed in the Meat Science Quiz Bowl, facing 36 teams from across the nation. Their participation reflects months of preparation and dedicated study of the complex details that define modern meat science.

Students also contributed to the conference's annual T-shirt Auction by designing and submitting an original shirt. Proceeds from the auction support scholarships awarded by AMSA throughout the year.



Students display the U of A designed t-shirt during the Reciprocal Meat Science Conference auction.

Graduate student Megan Sorenson presented her thesis research on the effects of cortisol in Angus-cross steers on carcass characteristics, lean color, and steak palatability. She competed in the Master's division research contest, joining 25 other graduate researchers from universities nationwide.

Students interested in future meat science quiz bowl competitions are encouraged to contact Megan Sorenson at [meganvsorenson@arizona.edu](mailto:meganvsorenson@arizona.edu) for more information.

## JBS Global Ingenuity STEP Program

Two ACBS students, undergraduate Hailey Harmon and graduate student Lucila Garcia, recently participated in the prestigious JBS Global Ingenuity STEP (Student Training and Education Program) held April 10–12, 2025, in Greeley, Colorado. The program, run in partnership with the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), offers college students hands-on training in meat product innovation, marketing strategy, and cross-functional team collaboration.

Hailey and Lucila joined 22 students from more than 16 universities for a three-day challenge. Working in teams, they designed a shelf-stable, individually packaged “Fusion Fun” product. They selected a base protein — beef tri-tip, pork tenderloin, or chicken breast — and then developed a marketable product from concept to prototype.

For her part, Hailey described the experience as “incredible”—emphasizing how the program pushed her to think critically and creatively about product development. She also highlighted the networking opportunities: touring JBS USA headquarters, meeting industry professionals, and forming lasting relationships with students from around the country.

Meanwhile, Lucila helped lead her team to victory — her group’s final product was selected by the judges as the winning entry. Their design will be added to JBS’s global brand portfolio and unveiled at AMSA’s 78th Reciprocal Meat Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

In addition to product development and strategy, participants gained exposure to multiple business functions: they worked in JBS’s pilot plant, collaborated with R&D, quality assurance, marketing, and operations teams, and attended sessions in the company’s test kitchens.

The program also offered insight into internship and full-time career opportunities at JBS and Pilgrim’s. Students stayed in provided lodging, and meals were covered — the only costs were a nominal registration fee and travel.

ACBS celebrates Hailey and Lucila’s accomplishments and thanks them for representing their university at this transformative event.

## Graduate Student Earns Top Honors at MANRRS Conference

Emmanuel Fatola, a graduate student in the Wulf Lab, represented the University of Arizona at the 39th Annual MANRRS Training Conference & Career Expo, held April 2–6, 2025, in Memphis, Tennessee. The national event brings together students and professionals in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences for training, networking, and professional development.

At the conference, Fatola presented his research poster titled “Effects of novel-environment stress on meat quality, steak tenderness, and glycolytic potential on beef derived from beef x dairy heifers.” His work investigates how environmental stressors impact beef quality and explores strategies to improve animal welfare and production outcomes.

Fatola’s scholarship, leadership, and contributions to agricultural science earned him two major awards:

- John Deere Graduate Scholarship – Presented in recognition of his innovative research aimed at reducing stress in beef cattle, including his proposed use of precision technology to monitor and identify stress during the critical final week prior to slaughter.
- MANRRS Gold Scholarship – Awarded for his exemplary service as Vice President of the University of Arizona MANRRS chapter and for his strong academic achievements in agriculture.

(Meat Science continued on 7)

The ACBS community congratulates Emmanuel on his accomplishments and celebrates his continued dedication to advancing livestock science and supporting diversity in agriculture.

### Graduate Student Joins AMSA Student Board



Graduate student Megan Sorenson, from the University of Arizona's ACBS program, has been elected to serve on the 2025–2026 Student Board of Directors for the American Meat Science Association (AMSA).

Megan holds one of the three At-Large Director seats, making her the first student from the U of A to serve on the AMSA Student Board.

The AMSA Student Board's core purpose is to build "a global science community of students who strive to foster leadership, vocational development and professional relationships within the animal, food and allied industries."

Board members play a critical role in creating opportunities for their peers, including professional development, networking events, and AMSA leadership programming.

ACBS congratulates Megan on her achievement and looks forward to the contributions she will make to the wider meat science community.

## Faculty and Staff Awards

### 2025 Outstanding ALVSE Team in Research Award

Presented for collaborative contributions to the division's research mission to the Southwest Environmental Pathogen Produce Safety Study Team.

This 9 member team, led by Dr. Channah Rock includes two members from ACBS:

- Kerry Cooper, Ph.D., Associate Professor (*back row right*)
- Victoria Obergh, Research Technician II (*far left*)



### CALES Outstanding Staff Award

- Dari Salvo

In her role as a senior academic advisor, Dari Salvo is a trusted advocate for her students, providing guidance with care and precision, while also supporting faculty and staff with her institutional knowledge and mentorship.



## Alumni Spotlight:

### UofA Grad Dr. Zach McFarlane

The University of Arizona is proud to highlight one of its own, Dr. Zach McFarlane, who earned both his B.S. (2013) and M.S. (2015) in Animal Science at the U of A. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in Ruminant Nutrition from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, under the guidance of Dr. Travis Mulliniks. He is now making a name for himself as a faculty member in the Animal Science Department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.



Since joining Cal Poly's faculty, he has focused on beef cattle production systems, teaching undergraduate courses and leading applied research initiatives aimed at improving production efficiency in the beef industry.

"At Cal Poly, I have a lot of fantastic students on campus, with many involved in meat science," McFarlane said. He added that his time in Tucson left a lasting impression: "I really enjoyed my time in Tucson and made connections with fellow students that I now work with in the industry today."

McFarlane's story reflects the power of a U of A Animal Science degree, producing leaders who go on to advance the livestock industry through teaching, research, and practical application. We're proud of his continued work to shape the future of beef cattle production and salute his commitment to "learn by doing".

From creating student meeting plan templates to directing a successful tutoring program, she has shown great leadership in developing innovative tools and processes to enhance advising services. Salvo's commitment to inclusive excellence is evident in all she does, whether she's mentoring peers, serving on councils or organizing student-focused events.

### Shirley O'Brien Award: Legacy Inclusive Excellence Champion

- Zelieann Craig (*photo below, right*)

What sets Zelieann Craig apart is her deep, unwavering commitment to building a university community that is fair, inclusive and empowering for everyone. As an associate professor in the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences and ALVSCE's assistant dean for research, she has mentored more than 30 research trainees, with over 75% from underrepresented backgrounds and 92% women. Craig knows the power of being seen and supported, and her mentorship has transformed lives.



# How Arizona Is Preparing the Public To Scout for New World Screwworm Threat

With its high temperatures and few winter freezes, Arizona is ripe territory for infestation from New World screwworm (NWS).

Ryan Wolker, state veterinarian with the Arizona Department of Agriculture, says he thinks the threat to his state from NWS is significant.

"It is definitely a concern," he says. "The New World screwworm detections in Mexico have surpassed 3,000 premises and have come within approximately 370 miles south of the southernmost point of Texas, but obviously that can change quite rapidly, especially with the animal movement within the country of Mexico itself."

Wolker has concerns about the impact NWS could have on Arizona's already-stressed cattle ranchers.

"There was a limited outbreak of NWS in Texas in the 1970s, and USDA conducted a study of that economic impact in 2016," he says. "Even without adjustment for increased inventories of animals since that time, because obviously, herd sizes are larger, feedlots are bigger, etc, the economic impact of that same outbreak in Texas now, only counting for inflation, would be looking at a cost to producers and lost revenue in the neighborhood around \$1.4 billion."

At a recent Trust In Beef Sustainable Ranchers Tour event in Willcox, Ariz., Wolker and the Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT) began an initiative to get ahead of the potential economic damage.

After gathering the team to practice on-the-ground incident response at YY Ranch, Wolker and Betsy Greene, extension specialist with the University of Arizona, unveiled the first of the state's saddlebag scouting kits that are available to ranchers.

The kit includes:

- Specimen collection vials with tweezers.
- Specimen baggies with cotton balls for safe transport.
- Collection and mail instructions.



"The whole point is, we can get and find things faster," Greene says. "If someone sees it, gets a sample, then we can deal with it."



New World Screwworm fly

Greene and Wolker urge ranchers to begin scouting now in their herds, looking at open wounds for any signs of infestation. Hunters should scout not only their harvests but any carcass they encounter during hunts.

In addition to specimen collection, Wolker stresses the importance of gathering additional data as well.

"Take some pictures for documentation purposes," he says. "If you're proficient with Google Maps, drop a pin to grab those GPS coordinates for us."

NWS scouting kits are available to ranchers through ALIRT. The team has issued a resource with additional scouting and specimen collection tips.

Additional resources can be found through your local Extension office, large animal or equine veterinarian or through the Arizona Department of Agriculture Animal Services Division.

- Jamie Sears Rawlings, Drovers

Originally printed Aug 8, 2025

<https://www.drovers.com/news/beef-production/how-arizona-preparing-public-scout-new-world-screwworm-threat>



The Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT) is a cross-functional team that aims to improve the diagnosis and response to unexplained livestock deaths in the state by providing resources and expertise from the Arizona Cattlemen's Association, Arizona Department of Agriculture, USDA and University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.

## Information for Arizona livestock producers on New World Screwworm:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/new-world-screwworm>

## For more information on ALIRT:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/programs/arizona-livestock-incident-response-team>

# Betsy Greene Receives Equine Science Society's Most Prestigious Honor



Dr. Betsy Greene (right) was awarded with the Equine Science Society's (ESS) Distinguished Service Award at their annual meeting held in June 2025.

Dr. Elizabeth "Betsy" A. Greene has been awarded the Equine Science Society's (ESS) Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the society can bestow upon a member. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional moral character and an outstanding record in teaching, research, Extension, or service that advances equine science and the horse industry.

The ESS describes the award as intended for those who have made "outstanding contributions to the field of equine science," emphasizing that nominees must exemplify excellence and leadership across their professional careers.

Dr. Greene's career spans more than 32 years of Extension and teaching experience at three major institutions: seven years at Washington State University, nearly 16 years at the University of Vermont, and, most recently, over nine years at the University of Arizona. Throughout her career, she has built a reputation for creating innovative, solution-oriented outreach programs that serve diverse equine communities.

At the University of Arizona, Dr. Greene strengthened statewide and national collaborations, developing new educational initiatives that draw upon her extensive network of colleagues and her strong

## U of A Equine Extension Recognized for Excellence in Extension Products and/or Programs by National Association of County Ag Agents (NACAA) and National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals (NAE4HYDP)

- 2025 Regional Winner – NAE4HYDP Excellence in Ag Literacy Programming Award. "Ag Daze: Agriculture in the Classroom"
- 2025 State Winner – NAE4HYDP Excellence in Animal Science Programming Award "Teaching youth with livestock and horses about disease transfer and prevention"
- 2025 State Winner – NACAA Communications Award. "Identifying and Mitigating Ivermectin Poisoning". Fact Sheet.
- 2025 State Winner – NACAA Communications Award. "Living the Land Grant Mission: Making a Difference for Navajo Nation Livestock/Horse Ranchers". Feature Story.
- 2025 State Winner – NACAA Communications Award. "Unintended Consequences of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act". (Brischke, Greene, and Hennig). Publication.

work ethic. Her creative approaches to problem-solving have resulted in widely adopted outreach programs benefiting horse owners, industry professionals, and students.

In addition to her Extension work, Dr. Greene is a prolific researcher and communicator. She has authored nearly 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, more than 100 scientific abstracts, and numerous Extension factsheets, articles, videos, infographics, podcasts, and webinars. Her work has been supported by more than \$2.6 million in grants and funding, including a notable Native American Agriculture Foundation grant of nearly \$200,000 to deliver livestock programs to Native American communities.

Dr. Greene also developed the "Informed Arizona Equestrian" initiative, creating a unifying identity for her educational materials and programs. Her leadership extends nationally through decades of involvement with ESS and through service in the eXtension Horse Community of Practice—now ExtensionHorses, Inc., where she has played a key role since its formation in 2004.

With nearly 40 years of membership and service within ESS, Dr. Greene's dedication to advancing equine science has shaped both regional and national efforts in education, biosecurity, emergency management, and animal welfare. Her peers note that her consistent leadership, collaborative spirit, and long-standing commitment to the horse industry make her an exemplary recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

Congratulations to Dr. Betsy Greene on this well-deserved honor.



## The 48th Annual American Youth Horse Council Symposium comes to Tucson!

The University of Arizona welcomed adults and youth from across the country to learn about horses. The theme for the 2025 event was "From the Book to the Barn – Educational Tools to Teach Safe, Effective Horsemanship", and was held April 11-13 at the newly renovated U of A Food Product and Safety Lab in Tucson, AZ. Dr. Betsy Greene hosted and provided on-site organization for the AYHC.

U of A presenters included:

- Kristy Kinlicheenie: "Bindii t'áá tijí bee na'nitin- Translates to: Let the Horse Teach You"
- Dr. Betsy Greene and Debbie Reed: "It Could Happen to You - Teaching Horse Owners About Disease Transfer and Prevention"
- Elizabeth Rogers, Robert Hartman, and Dr. Betsy Greene: "Under Scrutiny: Addressing Equine Industry Challenges and Our Social License to Operate"

# Ravishankar Lab Activities

## Graduate Student Awards

**Kirat Bains** received the Outstanding Graduate Student poster award in the 2025 School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences (ACBS) Spring poster session.

**Nguyen Dang** received the Graduate Tuition Scholarship from the Applied Biosciences master's program.

## Industry Outreach

During the first half of 2025, Drs. Bibiana Law and Sadhana Ravishankar actively expanded partnerships between the University of Arizona and regional food industry and public health agencies. With support from the CALES Development Office, the researchers met with produce and food industry representatives from February through July to explore future research collaborations. They also held multiple meetings with the Arizona Department of Health

Services and the Pima County Health Department—including sessions on July 1 and July 21—to discuss food testing needs and support for the Cottage Foods Program.

The Ravishankar Lab further strengthened community and industry engagement through outreach and mentoring. The lab hosted a high school intern through the 2025 Steps to STEM Program, culminating in a research presentation in June. Team members also showcased their work at several key events, including the Cactus IFT Supplier's Night in April, the Fuel Wonder Donor Event in Phoenix on February 12, and the Student Industry Networking Event at BIO5 on February 11, where they provided updates on current research, testing services, and emerging food safety innovations.

# Salvador/Computational Zoonoses Lab Moves to ACBS, Marks Milestones in Research and Student Achievements

The Salvador/Computational Zoonoses Lab, led by Dr. Lili Salvador, has officially relocated to the ACBS building this summer, continuing its work at the interface of wildlife, livestock, and human health. The lab team includes postdoc Sarita Bugalia; MICRO doctoral student Luis Alegria; MICRO master's student Alyssa Gregory; Veterinary Sciences undergraduates Lucy Kelly and Natalia Grazda-Valdez; Bioinformatics undergraduate Isabella Arenas; Animal Sciences undergraduate Kira Kawena Gomez; and Applied Biotechnology undergraduate Ash Ellen Maxwell. All members will continue their research in the lab for the 2025–2026 academic year.

The lab celebrated several notable achievements this year. Luis Alegria received the University of Arizona One Health Graduate Fellowship for 2025–26 to support his research on “The Role of the Environment in the Persistence and Transmission of *Mycobacterium bovis*.” Sarita Bugalia presented her work on mathematical modeling of bovine tuberculosis at the SIAM Conference on Dynamical Systems in Denver, while Isabella Arenas showcased insights into *M. bovis* cross-species transmission at the ASM Microbe Conference in Los Angeles and graduated with a BSc in Bioinformatics. Undergraduate researchers also completed prestigious programs: Natalia Grazda-Valdez through PHIRE, Kira Kawena Gomez via ASEMS-STARS, and Ash Ellen Maxwell through UROC-MHD, contributing to studies ranging from zoonotic tuberculosis in Africa to age- and sex-structured disease modeling in deer.



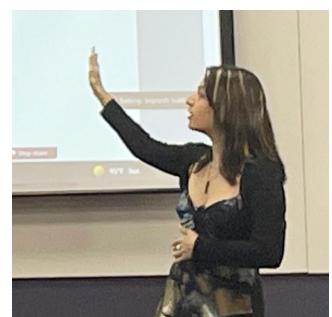
Luis Alegria was awarded the University of Arizona One Health Graduate Fellowship for the 2025–26 academic year.



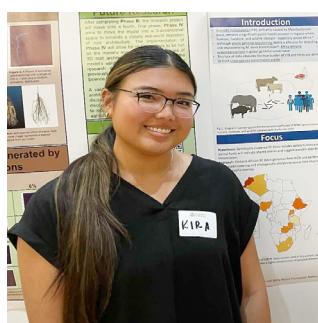
Isabella Arenas at the ASM (American Society for Microbiology) Microbe Conference in Los Angeles, CA.



Sarita Bugalia presenting her research poster at the SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) Application of Dynamical Systems Conference in Denver, CO.

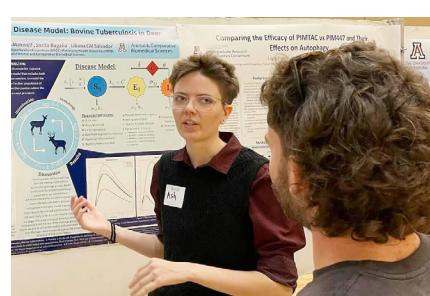


Natalia Grazda-Valdez successfully completed the University of Arizona PHIRE (Place-based Health Informatics Research Education) Program.



Kira Kawena Gomez (left) successfully completed the University of Arizona ASEMS-STARS (Arizona's Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholars - Scholar Training Academy for Research in STEM (STARS) program.

Ash Ellen Maxwell (right) successfully completed the University of Arizona UROC-MHD (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium - Minimizing Health Disparities Program).



# Aquaculture Pathology Lab Updates

## Shrimp Pathology Short Course - 2025

The 34th session of "Shrimp Pathology Short Course" was conducted in Tucson, AZ, from June 16-21, 2025. A total of 16 participants from seven countries including Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and US participated in the training.



Shrimp Pathology Short Course - 2025 attendees.

## Conference Session Chair

Dr. Arun K. Dhar served as chair for a session at the Aquaculture America, World Aquaculture Society Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 06-10, 2025. Six researchers, including an undergraduate student, Adrian Moreno from the Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, presented papers at the conference.



University of Arizona Aquaculture Pathology Lab members at the Aquaculture America, World Aquaculture Society Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 06-10, 2025.

## Invited Talks

Dr. Dhar was invited to give several talks at universities and meetings in various location across India in February 2025. These included the ICAR-National Institute for Plant Biotechnology and the 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum in New Delhi, the ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education in Kolkata, West Bengal, and the West Bengal, India, University of Agriculture and Technology in Pantnagar, Uttarakhand.



L to R: Dr. Arun K. Dhar with Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, India, at the 14th Asian Fisheries & Aquaculture Forum Meeting in New Delhi, India, February 12-15, 2025.

## World Organization for Animal Health

Dr. Arun K. Dhar attended a meeting of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) in Paris, France, April 08-10, 2025.

Dr. Dhar serves as a member of the Ad hoc Group of the Aquatic Animal Health Commission of the WOAH. The meeting focused on reviewing information for determining susceptibility of crustacean species to crayfish plague, one of the WOAH-listed crustacean diseases. Crayfish plague is one of the world's 100 worst invasive diseases. Since its emergence in the late 19th century, this disease has been devastating to endemic crayfish species across Europe.



Back row L to R: Dr. Jorge Cuéllar-Anjel (Ecuador) and Dr. Nick Moody (CSIRO, Australia).

Front row L to R: Dr. Arun K. Dhar, Dr. Han Ching Wang (Distinguished Professor, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan), and Dr. Kelly Bateman (CEFAS, UK).

At the World Organization for Animal Health meeting, Paris France held April 08-10, 2025.

## Awards

Dr. Arun K. Dhar was awarded for his outstanding contribution in teaching in the AQUAVET® Program at Cornell University on June 07, 2025. This is a summer program in Aquatic Veterinary Medicine and attended by veterinary students, and professionals from academia and governmental agencies from all over the world. Begun in 1977, the AQUAVET® Program is co-sponsored by the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Currently, the program is held at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. Selected faculty conducting research on aquatic animal health and veterinary medicine from around the US are invited to teach in this course.



Dr. Dhar receives the outstanding contribution in teaching award from the AQUAVET® Program at Cornell University.

Back row L to R: Dr. Robert A. Bullis (Professor- Retired, The College of the Florida Keys, College, Key West Florida), Dr. Donald V. Stremme (Director, AQUAVET Program), and Dr. Robert Maze (Associate Director, AQUAVET Program).

Front row L to R: Dr. Arun K. Dhar and Dr. Laurie Landau, (Associate Director, AQUAVET Program, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University).

## Grants

### Title: Development of a Multiplex Assay for Detecting Shrimp Pathogens Using Nanopore Sequencing

**Funding Agency:** USDA- APHIS Veterinary Services, National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP)

**PI:** Kuttichenantr Subramaniam (University of Florida)

**Co-PI:** Arun K. Dhar

**Funding Amount:** \$499,367

### Title: Role of Immune-Vascular Endothelial Cells Interaction in Fetal Growth Restriction-Associated Endothelial Dysfunction

**Funding Agency:** American Heart Association Transformational Project Award

**PI:** Chi Zhou

**Funding Amount:** \$300,000

### Title: Climate resilient high-quality tomato varieties for sustainable

**Funding Agency:** Texas A&M AgriLife Research/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

**PI:** Sadhana Ravishankar

**Funding Amount:** \$262,594

### Title: Expanding Tribal Capacity to Improve Animal/Human Health and Enhance Economic Sustainability

**Funding Agency:** Native American Agriculture Fund

**PI:** Betsy Greene

**Funding Amount:** \$149,966

### Title: Salmonella population dynamics in surface water

**Funding Agency:** University of Georgia, Research Foundation, Inc/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

**PI:** Liliana Salvador

**Funding Amount:** \$119,734

### Title: Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT)

**Funding Agency:** Arizona Department of Agriculture

**PI:** Betsy Greene

**Funding Amount:** \$40,918

### Title: Influenza and Zoonoses Education among Youth in Agriculture

**Funding Agency:** CSTE/CDC

**PI:** Betsy Greene

**Funding Amount:** \$40,000

## Publications

Caicedo JA, Vásquez GM, Calderón CP, Celis ELH, Castro JN, Araujo-Junior JP, **Mai HN**, and **Dhar AK**. 2024. Detection of infectious hypodermic and hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV) from a shrimp farm in the north coast of Colombia: A case report. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*. In Press.

Gonzalez-Cendales Y, **Schofield PJ**, Morahan B, McQuinn T, Starkey C, Gross K, and **Dhar AK**. 2024. Impact of commercial freezing on transmission of *Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei*. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*. In Press.

**Greene EA** and **Reed DLHR**. 2025. Az2149-2025 "AZ ALIRT BOLO: New World Screwworm (NWS)" Cooperative Extension. University of Arizona. (July, 2025).

**Greene EA** and **Reed DLHR**. 2025. Az2136-2025 "Science Creates Real Understanding of Biosecurity: SCRUB Mini Kit Instructor Guide" Cooperative Extension. University of Arizona. (June, 2025).

Hall AL, Audoin F, Brischke A, **Greene EA**, **Reed DLH**, and Wright A. 2025. Az2164-2025 "Preparing Livestock Producers for New World Screwworm Reemergence in the United States".

Cooperative Extension. University of Arizona. (October, 2025). [https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-10/az2164-2025\\_final.pdf](https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-10/az2164-2025_final.pdf)

**Mai HN, Schofield PJ**, Sealey W, Baker TM, and **Dhar AK**. 2025. Development of a PCR-based assay for assessing biosecurity risk of aquafeed for white spot disease. *Journal of Fish Diseases*, 2025; 0:e70008, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.70008>.

## Presentations and Invited Lectures

**Bains K**, and **Ravishankar S**. Efficacy of natural sanitizers in biofilm prevention and in decontaminating alfalfa seeds. Seminar presentation at the 2025 School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences Spring Seminar Series, University of Arizona, April 21, 2025.

**Bains K**, and **Ravishankar S**. Efficacy of Natural Sanitizers in Decontaminating Alfalfa Seeds. Seminar presentation at the 2025 Food Safety Consortium Summer Seminar Series, University of Arizona, June 17, 2025.

**Dhar AK**. Major Diseases in Shrimp: Their Diagnosis & Disease Management, Department of Aquatic Life Medicine, Pukyong National University, South Korea, May 28, 2025.

**Dhar AK**. "Disease diagnosis and engineering a viral vector for an oral delivery of therapeutic RNA in shrimp", ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, February 25, 2025.

**Dhar AK**. "Emerging Diseases for Cultivable shellfishes with monitoring through specific diagnostics" in "Winter School on Ecosystem Health Monitoring and Fisheries Management in Inland Open Waters" ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, West Bengal, India, February 25, 2025.

**Dhar AK**. "Leveraging Technology for Genetic Improvement in Aquaculture Production" in the Technical Session of the theme "Blue Revolution: Harnessing Science and Technology". XVII Agricultural Science Congress, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, India, February 20- 22, 2025.

**Dhar AK**. "Comprehensive monitoring of animal health and developing oral therapeutics are needed for sustainability of shrimp farming worldwide", 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14AFAF), Greening the Blue Growth in Asia Pacific February 12-15, 2025, New Delhi, India.

**Dhar AK**. "Engineering a viral vector for the delivery of therapeutic RNA in invertebrates". ICAR-National Institute for Plant Biotechnology, February 09, 2025, New Delhi, India.

**Dhar AK, Dinh-Hung N, Mai HN**. Translucent Post-Larvae Disease (TPD), an Emerging Disease in Shrimp. In: *Aphis Vs Aquaculture Health Initiatives – Showcasing What Vs Is Doing to Support U.S. Aquaculture Session*, Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Dhar AK, Dinh-Hung N, Schofield PJ and Mai HN**. Developing a Highly Specific and Robust Taqman Real-Time Per Assay for the Detection of an Emergent Pathogen, *Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei* (EHP) and Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND) Simultaneously in Shrimp. In: *Aphis Vs Aquaculture Health Initiatives – Showcasing What vs is Doing to Support U.S. Aquaculture Session*, Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Dhar AK, Mai HN, Dinh-Hung N**. Engineering an Infectious Fish Viral Nervous Necrosis (VNN) Clone in Insect Cells: Implications for Fish Genome Engineering and Oral Vaccine Development.

(Pubs continued on 13)

Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Dhar AK**, Plantig MA, **Pantoja-Morales C**. Association of NHP and DHPV with Reduced Growth in Farmed Shrimp from Latin America. 2025. Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Dinh-Hung N, Mai HN, Schofield PJ, Pantoja-Morales CR, Dhar AK**. A Comparative Study on the Characteristics and Pathogenicity of *Vibrio* Spp. In Post-Larval *Penaeus vannamei* Shrimp. Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Fragomeni B, Ampofo I, **Mai HN**, Grevers D, Luna M, Wright H, **Dhar AK**. Implementation of a Genomic Evaluation Program for Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrotic Disease Resistance in *Penaeus vannamei*. Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Greene EA**. Influenza and Zoonoses Education Among Youth in Agriculture Subaward Meeting. July 23, 2025. Decatur, GA.

**Greene EA**. "Mini-SCRUB Kit Demonstration". Professional Development Workshop for FFA Agriculture Teachers at Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association Fall Conference in Yuma, AZ (Sept 2025).

**Greene EA**. "New World Screwworm Updates, Bolos, and Surveillance Kits". Presentation for FFA Agriculture Teachers at Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association Fall Conference in Yuma, AZ (Sept 2025).

**Greene EA**. Tribal Agricultural Stewardship Kits (TASK Kits): U OF AZ Cooperative Extension Providing Education and Resources for Tribal Ranchers. Poster Presentation at Western Region NACAA Professional Improvement Conference in Ritzville, WA. October 2025.

**Greene EA** and Janovsky E. Emerging Horse Disease Issues. Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT) First Responder Training. Tucson, AZ. July 31, 2025.

**Greene EA** and **Reed DLH**. "It can happen to you! Keeping your horse safe at home and on the road". Workshop presented at the American Youth Horse Council Annual Conference in Tucson, AZ (April 11-13, 2025).

**Greene EA** and **Reed DLH**. Mini SCRUB Kit Workshop in Skills Station Rotations at One Herd Symposium. Texas A&M. June 24-26, 2025. College Station, TX.

**Greene EA** and **Reed DLH**. Preparing for New World Screwworm in Arizona: Not If, But When... Presentation at Western Region NACAA Professional Improvement Conference in Ritzville, WA. October 2025.

**Greene EA**, Luck LM, Williams T, Bump KD, and Splan RK. "Analysis of equine-specific undergraduate courses and competitive team opportunities across American colleges and universities". Poster Presentation at Equine Science Society Conference in Fort Collins, CO (June 2025).

**Mai HN, Schofield P, Sealey W, Dhar AK**. Development of a PCR-Based Diagnostic Assay for Screening *Enterocytozoon hepatopancreai* (EHP) in Formulated Aquafeed. Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Moreno A, Pantoja-Morales C**, Koliopoulos M, Brodsky M, **Dhar AK**. Exploring Alternatives to Glacial Acetic Acid for the Preparation of Davidson's AFA Solution Used for Fixation of Shrimp Tissues. Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Pantoja C** and **Dhar AK**. A Reo-Like Virus (RLY) Infecting the Hepatopancreas of Specific Pathogen Free *Penaeus vannamei*. Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Park R** and **Ravishankar S**. Assessing Microbial Shifts on Romaine Lettuce (RL) Following Post-Harvest Sanitization and Storage Using 16S rRNA Sequencing. Seminar presentation at the 2025 Food Safety Consortium Summer Seminar Series, University of Arizona, May 15, 2025.

**Ravishankar, S**. Emerging Foodborne Microbial Threats: Challenges & Control Strategies. Seminar presentation at the Horticultural College & Research Institute, Periyakulam, Tamilnadu, India. April 4, 2025.

Rodriguez-Medina L. Assessment of Fogging Technology with Plant-based Antimicrobials for Controlling *Listeria monocytogenes* on Ready-to-eat Ham. Seminar presentation at the 2025 Food Safety Consortium Summer Seminar Series, University of Arizona, April 24, 2025.

**Schofield P, Foscue J, Dinh-Hung N, Mai HN, Pantoja-Morales C, Dhar AK**. Evaluation Of Translucent Post-Larvae Disease (TPD) Resistance in Various Family Lines of Pacific White Shrimp *Penaeus vannamei*. Aquaculture America 2025 Conference, World Aquaculture Society, March 06-10, 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana.

## Poster Presentations

**Bains K, Zhu L, and Ravishankar S**. Comparative Evaluation of the Efficacy of Organic Sanitizers Against *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella enterica*, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and Leafy Green Native Microbiota on Different Food Contact Surfaces. Poster presentation at the ACBS Poster Session, University of Arizona, March 24, 2025 and 2025 Agriculture, Life & Veterinary Sciences & Cooperative Extension (ALVSCE) Research Showcase, University of Arizona, April 24, 2025.

**Dang N, Fast C, Sharma Y, Shrestha S, and Ravishankar S**. Comparative Analysis of Inoculation and Recovery Techniques for Better Recovery of *Listeria monocytogenes* from Ready-to-eat Meats. Poster presentation at the ACBS Poster Session, University of Arizona, March 24, 2025.

**Doggett G, Dang N, and Ravishankar S**. Safety First, Snacks Second: My Life in a Food Microbiology Lab. Poster presentation at the Steps 2 STEM Exhibit for the University of Arizona Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center, University of Arizona June 27, 2025.

**Lamey S, Garcia-Varela Y, and Ravishankar S**. Exploring the Native Microbiota of Naturally Fermented Vegetables in Southern Arizona. Poster Presentation at the 2025 Franke Honors Pinnacle, W.A Frankie Honors College, University of Arizona, April 23, 2025.

**Rogers E, Hartman R, and Greene EA**. "Under Scrutiny: Addressing Equine Industry Challenges and Our Social License to Operate". Workshop presented at the American Youth Horse Council Annual Conference in Tucson, AZ (April 11-13, 2025).

**Suda T, and Ravishankar S**. Analysis of Different Cleaning Methods for the Removal of *E. coli* K12 from Dog Food Bowls. Poster Presentation at the 2025 Franke Honors Pinnacle, W.A Frankie Honors College, University of Arizona, April 23, 2025.

## Local and National Coverage

Kipling, Ella. Keep onions away from common food to stop them going mouldy. UK Mirror. Aug 6, 2025. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/lifestyle/keep-onions-away-common-food-35678334>

Migoy C. "Arizona prepares for flesh-eating fly after cases move toward US border". Arizona Republic. September 23, 2025. <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-environment/2025/09/23/new-world-screwworm-fly-raises-alarms-among-arizona-ag-officials/86300135007/>

Orr, Marrissa. CALES researchers awarded \$2.8M NIH grant to study chemical effects on women's fertility. KVOA-TV. July 25, 2025. [https://www.kvoa.com/news/local/u-of-a-gets-2-8-million-to-study-chemical-effects-on-womens-fertility/article\\_6ee5f5ef-8afc-4147-850f-9ec606aae11f.html](https://www.kvoa.com/news/local/u-of-a-gets-2-8-million-to-study-chemical-effects-on-womens-fertility/article_6ee5f5ef-8afc-4147-850f-9ec606aae11f.html)

Poole, B. "Cooperative Extension helping ranchers prepare for New World Screwworm fly threat". August 6, 2025. <https://extension.arizona.edu/news/cooperative-extension-helping-ranchers-prepare-new-world-screwworm-fly-threat>

Rawlings JS. "How Arizona is Preparing the Public to Scout for New World Screwworm Threat". Drovers Magazine and Bovine Veterinarian. Updated August 8, 2025. <https://www.drovers.com/news/beef-production/how-arizona-preparing-public-scout-new-world-screwworm-threat>

Schauer, Erin. CALES researchers drive promising C. diff treatments through development. CALES News. May 5, 2025. <https://cales.arizona.edu/news/cales-researchers-drive-promising-c-diff-treatments-through-development>

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## ACBS Newsletter

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Stories in this print edition have been edited for length.

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